Claims

1. A system for controlling a telecom network (1), comprising

 • a first switch fabric (2), for controlling connections in the telecom network (1),

   o the first switch fabric (2) having a first port (7) and a second port (8),

   o a bridging circuit (6) connected between the first port (7) and the second port (8),

   o the first switch fabric (2) having a third port (9) connected to further switch fabric (15) or peripheral apparatuses (16),

   o the first switch fabric (2) having a fourth port (29) connected to further switch fabric (15) or peripheral apparatuses (16),

 • a computer apparatus (10)

   o arranged to communicate with the first port (7) for controlling a first connection between the bridging circuit (6) and a first peripheral apparatus (30),

   o the computer apparatus (10) further being arranged to communicate with the second port (8) for controlling a second connection between the bridging circuit (6) and a second peripheral apparatus (31).

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein

 • the ports (7, 8) have a control section (4) and a voice data section (5),

 • the control section (4) of the first port (7) communicates with the computer apparatus (10) via a first control link (11),

 • the control section (4) of the second port (8) communicates with the computer apparatus (10) via a second control link (12),

 • the bridging circuit (6) is connected between the voice data section (5) of the first port (7) and the voice data section (5) of the second port (8).

3. The system according to claim 2, wherein

 • the computer apparatus (10) is arranged to send a first control command (17) to the first port (7) via the control link (11) for controlling first connection between the bridging circuit (6) and the first peripheral apparatus (30), and

 • the computer apparatus (10) is arranged to send a second control command (18) to the second port (8) via the control link (12) for controlling the second connection between the bridging circuit (6) and the second peripheral apparatus (31).

4. The system according to any of claims 1 – 3, wherein

 • the first port (7) and the second port (8) support multiple circuits(6), and

- at least two circuits (6) are combined in a trunk.

5. The system according to any of claims 2 – 4, wherein
   - the first control link (11) and the second control link (12) are combined in a control network.

6. The system according to any of the preceding claims, wherein
   - the first switch fabric (2) comprises a single switch.

7. The system according to any of the preceding claims 1 - 4, wherein
   - the first switch fabric (2) comprises a first switch (19) and a second switch (20),
   - the first switch (19) having the first and third port (7, 9)
   - the second switch (20) having the second and fourth port (7, 9)

8. The system according to any of the preceding claims, wherein
   - the computer apparatus (10) is arranged to receive control signals from the first switch fabric (2).

9. The system according to claim 8, wherein
   - the computer apparatus (10) is arranged to pass control signals from the first port (7) to the second port (8) and from the second port (8) to the first port (7).

10. The system according to claim 8 or 9, wherein
    - the computer apparatus (10) is arranged to perform a service upon receipt of the control signal from the first switch fabric (2).

11. The system according to any of the preceding claims, wherein
    - the computer apparatus (10) comprises a server (21).

12. The system according to claim 11, wherein
    - the computer apparatus (10) comprises a signalling gateway (22),
    - the signalling gateway (22) is arranged to communicate with the server (21),
    - the signalling gateway (22) comprises a first and a second communication port for communication with the control section (4) of the first port (7) and the second port (8) respectively of the first switch fabric (2).

13. The system according to claim 12, wherein
   • the server (21) communicates with a user terminal (28), using a computer network (24, 26, 27).

14. The system according to any of the preceding claims, wherein
   • the control commands (17, 18) comprise commands related to establishing, and/or comprise commands related to breaking a connection.

15. The system according to any of the preceding claims, wherein
   • the computer apparatus (10) is arranged to generate a call detail record upon establishing a connection via the first port (7) or the second port (8) to the at least third port (9).

16. A method for controlling a telecommunication network, comprising
   • controlling a first connection by a computer apparatus (10) between a first port (7) and a third port (9) of a first switch fabric (2),
   • controlling a second connection by the computer apparatus (10) between a second port (8) and a third port (9) of the first switch fabric (2),
   • bridging the first and second connection via a bridging circuit (6) between the first port (7) and the second port (8).

17. The method of claim 16, comprising
   • controlling the first connection by the computer apparatus (10) by sending a first control command (17) to the first port (7),
   • controlling controls the second connection by the computer apparatus (10) by sending a second control command (18) to the second port (8).

18. The method according to claim 17, comprising
   • bridging the first and second connection by corresponding circuits in the bridging circuit (6).

19. The method according to any of the claims 16 – 18, comprising the step of
   • sending a control command from the computer apparatus (10) to the first switch fabric (2) upon receipt of a command from a user, whereby the computer apparatus (10) comprises a server (21) communicating with the first switch fabric (2) and the server

- (21) communicating with a user via a computer network (24, 26), and whereby the user may issue the command from a user terminal (28),

5   20. The method according to claim 19, comprising the steps
- receiving a call by the first switch fabric (2) at the at least one third port (9),
- sending a control command from the first switch fabric (2) to the server (21)
- communicating a response from the server (21) to the user terminal (28) upon receipt of the command from the first switch fabric (2)

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